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EXCERPTS FROM "VALA EMIGRANE" ("FREE ESTONIAN")
7 MAY, 1968---TORONTO ESTONIAN NEWSPAPER

ESTONIAN FREEDOM CROSSES SOLD IN TORONTO
Erik Heine's peculiar undertaking after
arrival in Canada

Erik Heine has entered into the limelight of USA and Canadian newspapers because of the lawsuit he started against Juri Raus. In Heine's activities, there are peculiar and mystical aspects which could be of interest to the public, which, however have not been publicized. One of these is the story about the manufacture of Estonian Freedom Crosses of which knowledgeable persons informed "Free Estonian" editors during the last week. Erik Heine had Estonian Freedom Crosses made on his own initiative and expense with the intent to present them ceremoniously to the Freedom Cross holders.

Soon after his arrival in Canada, Erik Heine approached an Estonian jeweler in Toronto, gave him as a sample an Estonian Freedom Cross of the black "for bravery" category and asked to have 25 new crosses made. The jeweler prepared the necessary molds and cast the crosses as desired by Heine. The ribbons for five of the crosses were made by an Estonian commercial artist using the silk screen technique.

Next Heine contacted the local Freedom Cross holders and the veterans organization in order to arrange for a second ceremonial presentation.

The holders of the Freedom Crosses did not agree with this, being of the opinion that decorating twice makes no sense and that the crosses could be obtained from Heine by those who have lost their own.

The second attempt to make a ceremonial presentation of the crosses was to contact the leader of the Boy Scout Jamboree (1958) so that the presentation could take place in the camp during a patriotic meeting. This proposal was not accepted since the right to present the crosses was only delegated to the government of the Estonia Republic.

One of the Freedom Crosses has been given to one of the senior Estonian officers who lives in Toronto, who has the right to wear the cross, but lost it during the war. Two of the Freedom Crosses have been sold to persons who claim that they are rightful holders of the Estonian Freedom Cross. Their names, however, do not appear in the roster for Freedom Cross holders of the "Piiigi Teataja" (an official Estonian government bulletin) nor in the pertinent publication which contains the pictures and personal history of all the holders of the Estonian Freedom Cross. It is known that there are two copies of this publication in existence in the American continent. One is owned by Colonel Unt in Vancouver and the other was in the possession of the Consul General, Kaiv. This volume was checked on the initiative of the Toronto Estonia Society when suspicion arose about persons to be invited as guests of honor to the celebration of the Estonian Independence Day. One of the crosses is in the possession of an Estonian military man as a souvenir. According to Heine's explanation, the cost of making the crosses was \$10 a piece and they were sold for \$15 each; whereby \$5 went to the support of war invalids.

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ESTONIAN FREEDOM CROSSES SOLD IN TORONTO
(continued)

During the past years, Heine's Freedom Crosses were in the possession of the Board of Toronto Estonian Veterans Association. Following the scandalous take-over of this association, the crosses remained in the possession of a former board member. A few months ago, E. Heine asked for the crosses to be returned - there were 21 left. It is not known why Heine had copies made of the Estonian Freedom Crosses.

(COMMENT: The mere act of copying or reproducing this decoration is considered by Estonians somewhat sacrilegious even if nothing else was involved. Heine undoubtedly had some motive for this activity, however, it is not quite clear at this time what the purpose was.)

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